

1 **ABSTRACT**

2 Using a message exchanger ("message exchanger"), data messages are
3 exchanged between entities in a decentralized, distributed, potentially
4 heterogeneous, network environment. The message exchanger employs XML
5 (extensible Markup Language). To accomplish this, the entities on both ends of
6 the message exchange understand, identify, and parse the message format. The
7 message exchanger defines such a mechanism. Data messages are broken down
8 into two portions—one portion (the body) is intended from an ultimate destination
9 and the other portion (the header) is intended for intermediate destination and/or
10 the ultimate destination. The body may be defined so that it must be understood
11 by the ultimate destination. The header may be defined so that it must be
12 understood or changed. Regardless, the data in the body is delivered intact to the
13 ultimate destination. The message exchanger defines a message envelope
14 exchange format in XML over a transport protocol, such as HTTP (HyperText
15 Transport Protocol). This format allows for the execution of RPC (Remote
16 Procedure Call) over XML, but it can be used for any message exchange over a
17 network.